

PENRITH RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


and of the

SANITARY SURVEYOR

1949.

F. W. GAVIN,  
M.D. Ch.B. (Edin.) D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

J. A. SEDGWICK,  
A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
Sanitary Surveyor.



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MANSION HOUSE,  
PENRITH,

10th June, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Penrith Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Miss Dickinson and Members.

I have pleasure in presenting my Fourteenth Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1949.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Circular 2/50, dated 25th January, 1950, and on the lines indicated in Circular 170/47, dated 31st December, 1947, the Report is again curtailed.

The population is estimated at 11,610 by the Registrar General, an increase of 60 on that given at mid-year 1948; and in this connection the first Census for 20 years will be held in the year 1951.

The most noteworthy feature in the vital statistics is the record low rate of Infantile Mortality at 19.80 per 1,000 live births—the only other comparable rate was a similar figure in the year 1939, viz. :—19.23.

Again there were no deaths from maternal or puerperal causes, and the birth rate at 17.4 compares with 16.7 for England and Wales.

Whooping Cough and Measles were each responsible for 1 death and the former was more prevalent than in 1948.

Measles which had been epidemic in 1948 continued into the early part of the year 1949, with unfortunately one death, a male child aged  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years from Broncho-Pneumonia.

There were no cases of Diphtheria and the last recorded case was in December, 1944.

The prevention of Smallpox is of vital importance, as recent events in the Glasgow district have demonstrated—the only effective control is by immediate segregation, disinfection and vaccination or re-vaccination of the contacts and vaccination of the population at large.

The menace of Infantile Paralysis (Poliomyelitis) appeared again with unfortunately the death of a Penrith resident in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Other cases notified made progress but with much residual crippling in at least one case, and the possible connection with defective sewerage was noted in three cases. The year 1949 was characterized by widespread outbreaks of this disease and compared with the record number notified in 1947.

Among the chief causes of death Heart Diseases again easily headed the list with 51 deaths, and intracranial vascular diseases, which includes Cerebral Haemorrhage, with 24 deaths comes next ; Cancer was responsible for 17 deaths. The death rate at 11.32 is very similar to that for England and Wales, 11.7.

Although there were 21 notifications of Primary Pneumonia there were no deaths among these cases and only one Pneumonia death was recorded in 1949 ; this good result is in the main attributable to the new M. & B. and Penicillin drugs which have proved of great benefit in the armoury of the family doctor.

No action was necessary in respect of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

WATER :—Details of the various undertakings are given in the Water Engineer's Report.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE :—See Surveyor's Report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Miss Dickinson and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

F. W. GAVIN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

|   |       |        |       |      |         |
|---|-------|--------|-------|------|---------|
| Area of the District (in acres)                   | ...   | ...    | ...   | ...  | 181,531 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses                        | ...   | ...    | ...   | ...  | 3,329   |
| Rateable Value                                    | ...   | ...    | ...   | ...  | £49,277 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate                   | ...   | ...    | ...   | £199 | 6s. 2d. |
| Registrar General's estimate of the population    | ...   | ...    | ...   | ...  | 11,610  |
| Live Births :—                                    | Male  | Female | Total |      |         |
| Legitimate  | 101   | 92     | 193   |      |         |
| Illegitimate                                      | 3     | 6      | 9     |      |         |
|   |       |        | 202   |      |         |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of population                | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 17.4    |
| Birth Rate for England and Wales                  | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 16.7    |
| Still Births :—                                   | Male  | Female | Total |      |         |
| Legitimate  | ... 3 | 2      | 5     |      |         |
| Illegitimate                                      | ... — | —      | —     |      |         |
|   |       |        | 5     |      |         |
| Rate per 1,000 (total births live and still)      | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 24.15   |
| Deaths :—   | Male  | Female | Total |      |         |
|   | 73    | 70     | 143   |      |         |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of population (standardised) | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 11.32   |
| Death Rate for England and Wales                  | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 11.7    |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes                      | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | Nil     |
| Maternal Mortality Rate                           | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | Nil     |
| Death Rate of Infants under one year :—           |       |        |       |      |         |
| All infants per 1,000 live births                 | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 19.80   |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births          | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 15.54   |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births        | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 111.11  |
| Infantile death rate for England and Wales        | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 32.0    |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                     | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 17      |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                    | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 1       |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)             | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | 1       |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)    | ...   | ...    | ...   |      | Nil     |

### VITAL STATISTICS.

I am indebted to Dr. Kenneth Fraser, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following vital statistics :—

|   | Birth<br>Rate. | Crude<br>Death<br>Rate. | Infantile<br>Mortality<br>Rate. |
|---|----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Administrative County of Cum-<br>berland  | 18.5           | 12.8                    | 34                              |
| Urban Districts of Cumberland<br>(including Boroughs of Work-<br>ington and Whitehaven) | 18.8           | 13.4                    | 42                              |
| Rural Districts of Cumberland   | 18.2           | 12.4                    | 28                              |
| Rural District of Penrith   | 17.4           | 11.32                   | 19.80                           |
| England and Wales   | 16.7           | 11.7                    | 32                              |

## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1949.

Net Deaths from Stated Causes at ages under 1 year.

| Causes of Death.            | Under<br>1 week | 1-2 weeks | 2-3 weeks | 3-4 weeks | Total under<br>4 weeks | 1-3 months | 3-6 months | 6-9 months | 9-12 mths. | Total under<br>1 year |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Premature Birth .. ..       | 2               | -         | -         | -         | 2                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | 2                     |
| Lobar Pneumonia .. ..       | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | -                     |
| Broncho Pneumonia .. ..     | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | -                     |
| Whooping Cough .. ..        | -               | -         | 1         | -         | 1                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | 1                     |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage .. ..   | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | -                     |
| Gastro-Enteritis .. ..      | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | -                     |
| Asphyxia .. ..              | 1               | -         | -         | -         | 1                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | 1                     |
| Convulsions .. ..           | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | 1          | -          | -          | 1                     |
| Pyloric Stenosis .. ..      | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | -                     |
| Pulmonary Atelectasis .. .. | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | -                     |
| Meningitis .. ..            | -               | -         | -         | -         | -                      | -          | -          | -          | -          | -                     |
| TOTALS .. ..                | 3               | -         | 1         | -         | 4                      | -          | 1          | -          | -          | 5                     |

Two infantile deaths occurred at the City Maternity Hospital, Carlisle and one at Penrith Cottage Hospital; two died at home.

The infantile mortality rate at 19.80 per 1,000 live births compares with a rate of 32.0 for England and Wales, and is the lowest since 1939 when a similar figure was recorded, viz. : 19.23, and I cannot find lower figures in the records back to the year 1910.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The provision of Health Services in the Area is as follows :—

1. The Medical Officer of Health for the Area has a similar appointment with the Penrith Urban District Council, and he also acts as an Assistant County Medical Officer for the Cumberland County Council. His qualifications are M.D., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Edin. & Glasg.).

The Sanitary Surveyor has a full-time appointment. His qualifications include the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

An Architect is also engaged and this Official is employed on the Council's Housing Programme.

Two unqualified assistants are engaged in the work of the department.

Five workmen are employed in attending to the water supplies in the area, one of whom is employed permanently as Filter House Attendant at the Headworks Filtration Plant at Dowthwaite Head.

In addition, the Council carry out water mains extensions by means of direct labour, and for this purpose a casual gang of some 10 men are generally employed.

Three workmen are employed to collect refuse and salvage.

2. With regard to Laboratory facilities and Hospital Services no changes have been made during the period under review.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

No action has been taken by the County Council in pursuance of Section 57 of the Local Government Act, 1929, nor has any action been taken under Section 307 or Section 320 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am obliged to Mr. J. A. Sedgwick, Sanitary Surveyor, for the following Report :—

### Water Supplies.

Samples of water are regularly taken from all the Council's supplies for chemical and bacteriological examination, and normally the water is of a pure and wholesome nature. After wet weather



it is not unusual for samples taken from the supplies on the Eastern portion of the area to show slight pollution, attributable to stock grazing in the vicinity. Fortunately this pollution is only of slight duration and its elimination does not present any great difficulty. None of the Council's water supplies show any evidences of plumbosolvency.

The following table divided into various Parishes gives particulars of the population, number of dwellinghouses, and the number of dwelling-houses connected with the public service main :—

(a) direct to the houses and (b) by means of standpipes.

| Paris          | Population | No. of Houses | Population Served.     |                 |                |
|----------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                |            |               | No. of Houses supplied | Direct to House | From Standpipe |
| Ainstable      | ... 530    | 152           | 127                    | 419             | 24             |
| Castle Sowerby | 534        | 101           | 94                     | 499             | —              |
| Catterlen      | ... 257    | 87            | 87                     | 257             | —              |
| Culgaith       | ... 671    | 181           | 178                    | 631             | 14             |
| Dacre          | ... 890    | 280           | 266                    | 838             | 6              |
| Glassonby      | ... 341    | 97            | 89                     | 311             | —              |
| Gt. Salkeld    | ... 371    | 120           | 100                    | 305             | 6              |
| Greystoke      | ... 440    | 150           | 144                    | 412             | 10             |
| Hesket ...     | ... 2051   | 555           | 509                    | 1841            | 40             |
| Hunsonby       | ... 380    | 105           | 101                    | 365             | —              |
| Hutton         | ... 350    | 95            | 90                     | 332             | —              |
| Kirkoswald     | ... 801    | 230           | 168                    | 565             | 20             |
| Langwathby     | ... 476    | 168           | 160                    | 435             | 8              |
| Lazonby        | ... 625    | 197           | 180                    | 561             | 10             |
| Matterdale     | ... 643    | 185           | 64                     | 224             | —              |
| Mungrisdale    | ... 375    | 102           | 69                     | 254             | —              |
| Ousby ...      | ... 383    | 105           | 97                     | 353             | —              |
| Skelton ...    | ... 906    | 261           | 246                    | 835             | 18             |
| Threlkeld      | ... 586    | 158           | 120                    | 429             | 10             |
| Total          | 11,610     | 3,329         | 2,889                  | 9,866           | 166            |

From the foregoing statistics it will be seen that approx. 87% of the total population of the area is in receipt of a piped water supply from the Council's mains, and that only 440 houses out of a total of 3,329 do not benefit from the Council's supply.

The average daily consumption throughout the year amounts to 650,000 gallons per day. The Council maintains a very high standard of waste water detection and prevention and the amount of avoidable waste is extremely low.

Furthermore, the Council have carried out a comprehensive scheme for the metering of supplies to agricultural holdings, and more than 500 meters have been installed.

Owing to the twice daily demand for water for milk cooling purposes consumers in certain high lying parts of the area suffer from intermittency of supply. This is caused by the fact that the reservoir accommodation in the area is generally insufficient and that the distribution mains are of insufficient diameter to meet the demands made upon them.

During the year the work of enlarging Hewer Hill Reservoir from 65,000 to 500,000 gallons was completed and proved a valuable asset to that particular area.

The prolonged drought during the year placed a very heavy strain on the Council's water resources, and by October the smaller village supplies were causing grave anxiety. Most of these schemes were yielding little more than their lowest recorded minimum yields.

### **SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.**

As yet the Council have not been able to proceed with any new sewerage schemes. The Council's Consulting Engineers have prepared schemes for the undermentioned villages :—

High Hesket  
Blencowe  
Kirkoswald  
Armathwaite  
Ainstable  
Motherby  
Skirwith

and these have been submitted to the Cumberland County Council for their approval before submission to the Ministry of Health. A scheme for dealing with sewerage at Skelton is already in the hands of the Ministry.

In the absence of extensive sewerage systems throughout the area, owners of properties converting privies to water carriage system instal their own private septic tanks and these prove very satisfactory in operation.

### **Refuse Collection.**

Collections throughout the area are now carried out on a fortnightly basis. The Council have now in operation a C.K.3 karrier refuse vehicle which has proved to be extremely suitable for this class of work in this area. All refuse tips are inspected regularly and temporary infestations by rats are immediately dealt with.

### **Schools.**

Regular inspections are made of all schools in the area and satisfactory sanitary conditions prevail in the majority. There are a number of schools where improvements are urgently needed particularly at High Hesket. This school is grossly overcrowded by children from a much larger area than could reasonably be expected to attend, with the result that the sanitary accommodation is inadequate. Owing to the absence of sewage disposal facilities in the village it is not possible for water closets to be installed, but the school managers have provided additional pail closets.

### **Factories Act, 1937.**

Regular inspections of all factories in the area are carried out, and any irregularities found have been remedied.

### **Shops Act, 1934.**

These premises are periodically inspected, attention being paid to the proper storage of foodstuffs, particularly perishable goods. Owners are instructed in the care required to maintain a satisfactory standard of hygiene in the handling of foodstuffs, and particular attention is paid to the provision of metal containers with fitted lids for receiving all waste material.

### **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**

Careful disinfection is carried out after all notified cases of infectious disease, and at all other times when required by the Medical Officer of Health.

There has been no occasion when it has been necessary to deal with infestations by bed bugs, or with filthy or verminous premises.



## Inspection and supervision, food premises, cowsheds and dairies.

Continual inspections are made of all the above premises in order to maintain a proper standard of cleanliness in all cases, and advice and instructions are regularly given in such cases where the standard falls below the level required in this area.

The upgrading of farms from the production of ungraded milk to designated milk is proceeding satisfactorily, and many premises are now in the course of reconstructions to bring them to the requisite standard for the production of this class of milk.

### Milk Sampling.

During the year 254 samples of milk were taken from various tuberculin tested, accredited, and ungraded producers in the area, the results of examinations being as under :—

#### From Schools—

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Samples taken        | 2 |
| Samples satisfactory | 0 |

#### From T.T. Producers—

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Samples taken ...    | 193 |
| Samples satisfactory | 90  |

#### From Accredited Producers—

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Samples taken ...    | 11 |
| Samples satisfactory | 7  |

#### From Ungraded Producers—

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Samples taken ...    | 7 |
| Samples satisfactory | 3 |

#### From Ungraded Producers— (T.T. Qualifying).

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Samples taken ...    | 41 |
| Samples satisfactory | 17 |

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Total number of Samples taken ...    | 254 |
| Total number of satisfactory Samples | 117 |

### Ice Cream.

There are only two producers of ice cream in the area. Each of these are now aware of the Heat Treatment Regulations and the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 (Sections 13 and 14). Regular inspections have been made of the premises on which these producers make ice cream, and samples are frequently taken to ensure that any ice cream produced in this area is in a clean and wholesome condition.



In the course of food inspection, the following items of food-stuffs have been condemned as being totally unfit for human consumption :—

|               |     |          |
|---------------|-----|----------|
| Cheese        | ... | 74 lbs.  |
| Wet Fish      | ... | 5 stones |
| Evap. Milk... |     | 48 tins. |
| Ox Tongue     |     | 6 lbs.   |

### New Houses.

The Council are making steady progress with their housing programme, and, after taking into account the limited amount of labour available in the form of local contractors, the small number of houses being constructed on each site and the often practically interminable delays before sites can be approved it will be realised that the Council are losing no time in this sphere of work.

Since the cessation of the last war, the following houses have been completed by the Council, and are now occupied, largely by agricultural workers :—

|             |   |             |    |
|-------------|---|-------------|----|
| Lazonby     | 6 | Howes       | 2  |
| Langwathby  | 8 | Ousby       | 2  |
| Culgaith    | 8 | Low Braith- |    |
| Hunsonby    | 6 | waite       | 2  |
| Newbiggin   | 8 | Pallet Hill | 2  |
| Stainton    | 6 | Catterlen   | 2  |
| Low Hesket  | 6 | Skirwith    | 3  |
| Calthwaite  | 8 | Glassonby   | 4  |
| Edenhall    | 2 | Renwick     | 2  |
| Greystoke   | 6 |             | —  |
| Gt. Salkeld | 4 |             | 87 |
|             |   |             | —  |

In addition the Council had some thirty houses in course of erection at the end of the year.

There has also been a certain limited number of new houses built by private enterprise, mainly by farmers providing cottages for their own agricultural workers, and by other persons gravely in need of housing accommodation. Each application for a licence to build privately is very carefully considered, and only granted when the Council are satisfied that their own housing programme will not be affected by such private development.

Since the War, 16 houses and 7 bungalows have been completed by private enterprise. More houses would have been erected by private enterprise during the year if the Council had been permitted to issue a greater number of licences than the maximum of six allowed by the appropriate Ministry.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### Summary of Inspections Made.

|                                    |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Workshops                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24  |
| Dairies and Cowsheds               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 410 |
| Slaughterhouses                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Petrol Stores                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73  |
| Carbide Stores                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   |
| Works in Progress—New Drains, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 360 |
| New Buildings                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 176 |
| General Inspections                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 470 |
| Inspections re Complaints received | ... | ... | ... | ... | 180 |
| Inspections under Housing Acts     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 175 |
| Inspections of Schools             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 62  |

### Works Carried Out.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Premises cleansed                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Roofs repaired                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37  |
| New Spouting fixed                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32  |
| Air Drains fixed                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Floors relaid and repaired              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16  |
| Walls repaired or cemented              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 78  |
| Scullery Sinks trapped                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24  |
| Water Closets constructed               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38  |
| Drains constructed or repaired          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 82  |
| Water Closets repaired                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24  |
| Sewers and Drains repaired and cleansed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63  |
| New Septic Tanks built                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41  |
| Water Supplies carried to houses        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32  |
| New Baths fixed                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29  |
| Cowsheds improved                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 61  |
| New Cowsheds built                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8   |
| New Cooling-houses erected              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33  |
| New Houses completed                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27  |
| Houses altered or repaired              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 181 |
| New Windows fixed                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15  |
| New Ceilings put up or repaired         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31  |
| New Slop Sinks fitted to houses         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27  |
| Obstructed Drains cleansed              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51  |
| Drains tested                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 |

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| Diseases.                        | AGES. |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     | TOTAL. | Admitted to Isolati'n Hosp | Deaths. |    |
|----------------------------------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------------------------|---------|----|
|                                  |       |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |        |                            |         |    |
|                                  | -1    | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | 45- | 65- |        |                            |         |    |
| Smallpox                         | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..     | 18                         | 18      | .. |
| Scarlet Fever                    | ..    | 2  | 3  | 1  | 2  | 6  | 2   | ..  | 2   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..     | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Diphtheria                       | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..     | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..     | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Puerperal Fever                  | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | 1   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..     | 1                          | 1       | .. |
| Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia  | ..    | 1  | 2  | .. | .. | 1  | 5   | 2   | 3   | 3   | 2   | 2   | 21     | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne)      | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | 1   | ..  | 1      | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Brucellosis                      | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | 1   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | 1      | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Erysipelas                       | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | 1   | 1      | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum            | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..     | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever             | ..    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..     | ..                         | ..      | .. |
| Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis     | ..    | 1  | .. | 1  | .. | .. | 1   | ..  | ..  | 1   | ..  | ..  | 4      | 4                          | ..      | .. |
| Measles                          | 1     | 4  | 6  | 6  | 5  | 22 | 3   | ..  | 2   | 1   | ..  | ..  | 50     | ..                         | 1       | 1  |
| Whooping Cough                   | 10    | 6  | 10 | 7  | 5  | 34 | 4   | ..  | 1   | ..  | ..  | ..  | 77     | ..                         | 1       | 1  |
|                                  |       |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     | 174    | 23                         | 2       | 2  |

## Scarlet Fever.

Eighteen cases were notified during 1949 compared with twenty three in 1948, and five were in the Culgaith area, four of the latter were schoolchildren attending Culgaith village school and as three cases had occurred at this school in the autumn of 1949, it was decided to swab all the children attending at the school on 23rd March, 1950. 49

All swabs were negative except three children aged circa 6 years who had positive swabs for haemolytic streptococci. These three children were excluded from school—two were brother and sister—and all were treated at their homes with Penicillin Sulphathiazol Snuff for 10 days, then they were re-swabbed, when the brother and sister had nose and throat swabs negative—the other child was still throat positive, and further treatment and exclusion from school was done. This treatment was carried out by the District Nurse in collaboration with the family doctor, and on re-swabbing, this boy was found negative and allowed to return to school.

No further cases occurred at Culgaith School, but an adult person (aged 30 years) was notified at Culgaith village on 5th September.

Five cases were notified in one family in the same household about mid-July, at Kirkoswald—this small outbreak was entirely localised to this particular house.

Eight other cases which were scattered throughout the district, were notified during the year, and it is noted that two of these at North Dyke were brother and sister living in the same house.

Every case was isolated at Fairhill Hospital and the routine disinfection done and all cases made a good recovery.

## Diphtheria.

For the fifth year in succession there were no cases of this disease in the district, and the following table shows the number notified and deaths from this cause which have occurred during the past 20 years :—

| Year. | Cases. |     |     |     |     | Deaths. |
|-------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| 1929  | ...    | ... | 11  | ... | ... | 2       |
| 1930  | ...    | ... | 2   | ... | ... | Nil     |
| 1931  | ...    | ... | 8   | ... | ... | Nil     |
| 1932  | ...    | ... | 2   | ... | ... | 1       |
| 1933  | ...    | ... | Nil | ... | ... | Nil     |
| 1934  | ...    | ... | 7   | ... | ... | 2       |
| 1935  | ...    | ... | 5   | ... | ... | Nil     |
| 1936  | ...    | ... | 8   | ... | ... | Nil     |



|       |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| *1937 | ... | ... | Nil | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1938  | ... | ... | 3   | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1939  | ... | ... | 2   | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1940  | ... | ... | 1   | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1941  | ... | ... | 1   | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1942  | ... | ... | 3   | ... | ... | 1   |
| 1943  | ... | ... | 2   | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1944  | ... | ... | 4   | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1945  | ... | ... | Nil | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1946  | ... | ... | Nil | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1947  | ... | ... | Nil | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1948  | ... | ... | Nil | ... | ... | Nil |
| 1949  | ... | ... | Nil | ... | ... | Nil |

### **Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

The National Campaign against this disease was continued on similar lines to those adopted in previous years, but with the coming into force of the National Health Service Act on 5th July, 1948, the administration of this work now rests with the County Council.

\*First Immunisations were carried out in Penrith Rural Schools during the year 1937, and the only death from Diphtheria which has occurred since was in 1942, when a pre-school aged child who had not been immunised died from this disease.

### **Acute Primary Pneumonia.**

Twenty one cases were reported compared with ten in 1948, and it may be asked why should so many cases occur in a year which was characterised by prolonged brilliant summer weather.

It is noted that 16 of these cases were notified before the end of May, 1949, and during the last seven months of the year there were only five cases, two in October, and three in November.

There were no deaths recorded among these twenty one cases of *primary* pneumonia which is probably attributable to the use of penicillin which is potent against many of the casual micro-organisms. However broncho-pneumonia, as a complication, was responsible for two deaths, one measles, and one whooping cough.

### **Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne).**

This was an isolated case which had probably been infected outside the district. Samples of the household milk were taken and the result was negative for non-lactose fermenters of the coli-typhoid group.

### **Brucellosis.**

One case of *Bacillus Abortus* infection was notified in September—the patient who was living on a farm was an isolated case and most probably acquired the infection from the cattle at the farm concerned. Details of this case were sent to a Senior Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

### **Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.**

Four cases were notified in 1949 and the second notification was not confirmed at Crozier Lodge Isolation Hospital, Carlisle; leaving three cases contrasted with only two cases in 1948, and five in 1947. The details are as follows :—

(1) On 26th October, 1949 a pre-school aged child (1 year 11 months), a boy, was admitted to Crozier Lodge on 23rd October, 1949 and made pretty good progress being returned home about December, 1949.

(2) On 29th October, 1949 a pre-school age boy was admitted to Crozier Lodge on 29th October, 1949 but discharged home on 3rd November, 1949 as the diagnosis was not confirmed.

(3) On 12th December, 1949, a Hunsonby schoolboy, aged 13 years was admitted to Crozier Lodge on the same date, the onset of disease was on 7th December, 1949—he was discharged to the Ethel Hedley Hospital on 25th January, 1950. “He was a severe and confirmed case of Poliomyelitis with involvement of both legs and the right arm. He made good progress whilst in hospital and the ultimate outlook may be very good.”

(4) On 28th December, 1949, a farm labourer aged 36 years was sent from Ousby to Crozier Lodge, the onset of symptoms was on 25th December, 1949, and he was discharged to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital on 7th February, 1950. He had severe Poliomyelitis with almost complete loss of function in his legs. The Orthopaedic Specialist reports—“it is too early to assess recovery yet.”

### **Source of Infection.**

It was noted that the sanitary conditions at case (1) consisted of an earth closet in the garden attached to the cottage.

Case (2) can be disregarded as the diagnosis was not sustained at Carlisle.

In connection with case (3) it was found that the drainage system was defective with blocked drains to a septic tank, the effluent from which flowed into a small wood situated about 350 yards from a farm where case (4) was employed.

It is not unreasonable to link cases (3) and (4) but the mode of infection is undetermined—possibly flies were the vectors carrying virus from the wood to the farm and infecting foodstuffs.

The original source of infection may have come from North Westmorland where cases were reported at Knock village in the Autumn of 1949.

### **Action Taken.**

Careful and thorough disinfection was undertaken and contacts were advised to gargle their throats with antiseptic and g. thymol, and the importance of washing one's hands after visiting a toilet was emphasised, also thorough cleansing of hands before preparing or consuming food.

In case (3) the septic tank was cleaned out, blocked drains cleared and thoroughly disinfected.

It is noted that all the notifications occurred in October and December, and that flies were unusually prevalent owing to the mildness of the weather during these months.

### **Fatal Case—Penrith Resident.**

In addition to the above, a transferable death was noted from the Richmond U.D. in Yorkshire, where a resident from the Water-millock district was on holiday, and he had died on April 3rd in an ambulance. The details of this case are unknown but it would appear that infection had been acquired outside Penrith Rural District.

This unfortunate man, whose age was 38 years was a shopkeeper in the Penrith Urban Area. The death certificate stated "Acute Polioencephalitis" as the cause of death. It is to be noted that Poliomyelitis appears to be more fatal in adults and that the mid-brain is more frequently involved than in children. Two deaths in adults from this disease in this area during the 1947 epidemic were also "Polioencephalitis" with bulbar paresis as the most prominent symptom.

### **Measles.**

This disease which was epidemic in the Kirkoswald district during January, 1949 died out at the end of that month, with only a few scattered cases in March—May, and again in December.

There was one death, a boy, aged  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years, who succumbed to Broncho-Pneumonia on 29th January.

### **Whooping Cough.**

There were 77 cases, with one death, a female child aged only 3 weeks who died from the complication of Broncho-Pneumonia on the 29th April.



Most of the cases occurred in the Langwathby, Skirwith, Kirkland and Blencarn districts during the Spring months ; the disease was also epidemic in the Watermillock and Penruddock districts during the months of October and November.

Deaths from Broncho-Pneumonia serve as a timely reminder of this dangerous complication in Measles and Whooping Cough, especially in young children.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough is still in the experimental stages and is not recommended by the Ministry of Health at the present juncture.

### **Anthrax.**

On 8th February, 1949, notice was received that a suspected case of this disease had occurred at Skelton, but this notice was subsequently withdrawn following a report from the Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture directed to examine the suspected carcase. Cattle, sheep and horses are the animal hosts of chief importance, but Anthrax can also infect humans and occurs chiefly among persons working with hides, hair of cattle, therefore among wool-sorters, tanners, etc.

### **TUBERCULOSIS CASES 1948.**

| AGES.              | New Cases.  |   |             |   | Deaths.     |   |             |   |
|--------------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
|                    | Respiratory |   | Non-Respir. |   | Respiratory |   | Non-Respir. |   |
|                    | M           | F | M           | F | M           | F | M           | F |
| To One year ...    | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — |
| 1 to 5 years ...   | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — |
| 5 to 15 „ ...      | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — |
| 15 to 25 „ ...     | 1           | 2 | —           | — | 1           | 1 | —           | — |
| 25 to 35 „ ...     | 1           | 2 | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — |
| 35 to 45 „ ...     | 5           | — | —           | — | 2           | — | —           | — |
| 45 to 55 „ ...     | —           | 1 | —           | — | 1           | 1 | —           | — |
| 55 to 65 „ ...     | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — |
| 65 and upwards ... | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — | —           | — |
| TOTALS ...         | 7           | 5 | —           | — | 4           | 2 | —           | — |

Of the 12 new cases added to the Register during 1949, two were displaced persons (husband and wife) from Europe and now domiciled at Merrythought Camp, Calthwaite. One case was



restored to the register, and two were cases transferred from other areas—there were thus only 7 new cases—all pulmonary—arising within the Penrith Rural Area.

No cases of non-pulmonary T.B. were recorded and this is in my opinion largely attributable to the increased number of attested herds within the district.

There were 6 deaths all from pulmonary tubercle, two of these were displaced persons from Europe and one was a mental patient the infection having been acquired while an in-patient at a Mental Hospital.

No action has been necessary in respect of Tuberculosis amongst persons employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

The total number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1949, is 28, a decrease of 7 as compared with the number at the end of the year, 1948.

| Males.     |                |   | Females.   |                |   |
|------------|----------------|---|------------|----------------|---|
| Pulmonary. | Non-pulmonary. |   | Pulmonary. | Non-pulmonary. |   |
| 13         | ...            | 1 | 11         | ...            | 3 |

### CANCER MORTALITY.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 17, giving a rate of 1.46 per 1,000 population and compared with 21 deaths in 1948, and a rate of 1.82.

| Alimentary System :—   |  | Males   | Females |
|------------------------|--|---------|---------|
| Colon                  |  | 85 yrs. | 77 yrs. |
|                        |  | 79 yrs. | —       |
| Peritoneum             |  | —       | 73 yrs. |
| Rectum                 |  | 43 yrs. | —       |
|                        |  | 28 yrs. | —       |
| Bowel                  |  | —       | 56 yrs. |
| Oesophagus             |  | 77 yrs. | —       |
|                        |  | 67 yrs. | —       |
| Gall Bladder           |  | —       | 66 yrs. |
| Reproductive System :— |  |         |         |
| Breast                 |  | —       | 56 yrs. |
|                        |  |         | 70 yrs. |
| Ovarian                |  | —       | 58 yrs. |
|                        |  | —       | 44 yrs. |
| Uterus                 |  | —       | 82 yrs. |
| Lungs :—               |  | 42 yrs. |         |
| Anaplastic             |  | 53 yrs. |         |

TOTAL :—8 males ; 9 Females.

The average age at death was 62 years.

## CAUSES OF DEATH AS GIVEN BY THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

|   |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Whooping Cough  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | 1        | 1      |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 3        | 7      |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        | 1      |
| Measles   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        | 1      |
| Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        | 1      |
| Cancer of buccal cavity and<br>oesophagus (M) uterus (F)            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 2        | 3      |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        | 1      |
| Cancer of Breast  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        | —      |
| Cancer of all other sites   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 6        | 11     |
| Diabetes  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        | 1      |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9      | 15       | 24     |
| Heart Diseases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27     | 24       | 51     |
| Other diseases of the Circulatory System                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 2        | 8      |
| Bronchitis  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | —        | 2      |
| Pneumonia   | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | 1        | 1      |
| Other respiratory diseases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        | —      |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        | 1      |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years   | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        | —      |
| Appendicitis  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | 2        | 2      |
| Other digestive diseases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| Nephritis   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 2        | 3      |
| Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        | —      |
| Other Maternal causes   | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | —        | —      |
| Premature Birth   | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | 1        | 1      |
| Congenital malformations, birth injuries,<br>and infantile diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | —      | 1        | 1      |
| Suicide   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | —        | 1      |
| Road Traffic Accidents  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | —        | 2      |
| Other violent causes  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 2        | 6      |
| All other causes  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 6        | 11     |
|   |     |     |     |     | 73     | 70       | 143    |

### FACTORIES.

|           | Number on Register | Inspections |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| Factories | 50                 | 133         |

### SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

|                         | Found | Remedied |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|
| Unsuitable or defective | —     | —        |

### OUTWORK.

|                 | Outworkers |
|-----------------|------------|
| Wearing apparel | 1          |



